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**PATENT  
FINAL**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/870,583 Confirmation No. 9221  
Applicant : Masahi ISHIDA et al.  
Filed : June 1, 2001  
TC/A.U. : 3731  
Examiner : Jessica R. Baxter  
Dkt. No. : NPR-073  
Cust. No. : 20374

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**  
**TO THE FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 4, 2004**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 29, 2004

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 4, 2004.

Please amend the application as directed below and consider the remarks that follow.